

**Charter Review Commission
Minutes**

January 28, 2022
City Council Chambers
City Hall, 90 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio

(Audio recording available in the Office of the City Clerk)

Committee Members in Attendance:

Trudy Bartley, Chair
Desmond “Dez” Bryant
Keary McCarthy
Norwood “Buzz” Thomas
Nana Watson

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Commission Chair Bartley opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

City Council President Shannon G. Hardin opening comments and thanks

Commission member introductions

Adoption of Commission By-Laws

Chair Bartley asked for a motion to adopt the Commission By-Laws
Ms. Watson moved, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. No discussion followed
All voted in favor. By-laws (attached) were adopted.

Commission/City Staff liaison introductions

John Oswalt, Senior Legislative Advisor, City Council Legislative Research office
Christina Rattleff, Mayor’s office, Policy Advisor
Jason Jenkins, Mayor’s office, Director of External Affairs
Lara Baker-Morrish, Chief Counsel, City Attorney Zach Klein

City Attorney’s office Presentations

Chief Counsel Lara Baker-Morrish covered definitions and requirements of Ohio Public Meetings/Public Records law

City Charter history presentation by Chief Counsel Lara Baker-Morrish, City Attorney's office

Commission Discussion

Chair Bartley stated that in light of the current Covid pandemic surge, etc. she would like to appoint a Vice Chair at the next meeting to cover, should she be unable to attend a meeting. She asked that members consider volunteering to serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Bryant both expressed willingness to serve. Will be formalized at the next commission meeting.

Discussion regarding meeting schedule going forward and presentation of topics that have been recommended thus far.

Chair Bartley outlined the following recommendations that have been brought forward for discussion by the Commission from elected offices.

- 1) Self-dealing through ballot initiative
- 2) Civil Service reform
- 3) Digitization of work re: use of modern technology in city offices
- 4) Gender neutrality within the Charter
- 5) Appointment of Acting Mayor
- 6) Part-time vs. Full-time Council members
- 7) Virtual meetings

Chair Bartley has received recommendations from the public for consideration, as well.

Commission recommendations need to be finalized no later than July 8, 2022 for consideration by City Council. Bi-weekly meetings are anticipated at this point. Some in the morning hours, and some in evening hours for convenience of the public that may wish to participate.

Commission members will review calendars and suggest future committee meeting dates/times. Mr. Oswald will suggest date for second meeting via email. Public notice will follow.

Community Engagement

Mr. Oswald reiterated that public notice will be given for all meetings and outreach to the community. The intention is that we do whatever we can to make it as convenient as possible for residents that wish to participate and offer comment. Discussion followed regarding how information can be widely disseminated.

Adjournment

Chair Bartley asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCarthy moved, Mr. Bryant seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by City Clerk Andrea Blevins